

WINTER 2016

The theme

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
Bi-monthly newsletter

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

The earth and everything in it, the world and its inhabitants, belong to the LORD; Psalm 24:1 (HCSB)

from the pastor's <3

YOUTH UPDATE

Church Ministries, Missions

Preschool

Upcoming Events

ARK ENCOUNTER

Southern Baptist Convention

Event Calendar

P. 1-3

P. 4

P. 5-8

P. 9

P. 10-11

P. 12-15

P. 16

P. 17-18

From the pastor's heart...

Do you ever read a passage of scripture and then go "I've never seen that before!!". You may have read that scripture multiple times, but this time, an epiphany jumps off the page and into your spirit to forever more be a part of your sanctification experience. Then, that understanding influences many other understandings you've held from scripture. Yeah. I thought so.

On a continuous basis this is happening for me. I find God's grace is active and alive and reinforcing His Word with every discovery that He enables me to find. In His most recent direction, God has been taking me through Revelation so that we may understand the times. Through that, He has enabled me to see how Satan has continuously tried to thwart God's plan of the one true seed by planting seeds of destruction and chaos.

Why did Satan put it in Cain's heart to kill Abel with that stone. Because he heard the voice of God say "I will put enmity - Between you and the woman, - And between your seed and her Seed; - He shall bruise your head, - And you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15). Satan believed that Abel was the "woman's seed" and if Satan could take out or disrupt God's plan, then he would have won. But Satan was mistaken and Abel was not the promised seed. But Satan did not know that. So He began his attempts to disrupt God's plan.

As the population of the earth increased (Genesis 6:1), Satan knew that the possibility of the promised seed coming from the lineage of man was increasing. So he shifted tactics. If a corruption of the seed of the lineage of mankind could take place, then the non-pure race would nullify God's plan for a pure seed from a pure woman. That is what I firmly hold to as what is going on in Genesis 6. As I shared this with Men in Motion on December, 8th, I told them that these "sons of God" being spoken of were indeed fallen angels.

The record of Job, the oldest written record of scripture we have, speaks of the sons of God in three places. In Job 1:6 and 2:1 it records Satan as being present among the sons of God. He had the right to join in with them because he was a son of God. His abode was not confined or restricted from presenting himself before God after the fall. Revelation 12:9-10 clearly shows that

Satan has clearance to the presence of God as he "accused the brethren before God day and night". So this title, sons of God, is not a title of nobility, but rather of origin which speaks of angels in each context. And as it speaks of Satan and his associates, it speaks of fallen angels. So Satan planted demonic seed in the daughters of men to corrupt any possibility of the Seed of God triumphing over the serpent.

Now the epiphany: (what, you thought that was the epiphany?) No, but Genesis 6:8. "BUT ---- NOAH ---- FOUND ---- GRACE ---- IN ---- THE ---- EYES ---- OF ---- THE ---- LORD." Read each syllable of each word slowly and think upon it. How did Noah find grace in the eyes of the Lord? It is simply that God was offering it and Noah was looking for it. The whole world had grown evil and depraved to record levels, and in the midst of that, God's grace was being extended and God's grace was being sought. Through the Seed of the woman, Jesus is continued evidence that God's grace is still extended to people. Who will find it? Those who look for it.

(1 Chronicles 28:9b) "for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."

[Deuteronomy 4:29 NKJV] 29 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

[2 Chronicles 16:9a NKJV] 9 "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."

God's grace is extended to you. Will you find it? That depends. Are you looking for it?

In Christ,

Pastor Leroy

He Holds the Future

Tiger Woods once went to a blind golfer's convention. He was greatly intrigued and asked how they were able to play golf while being blind. They answered that it wasn't too difficult. They explained that their caddies carry a bell, and when they ring the bell three times, the golfers hit the ball in the direction of the sound. The blind golfers were so extremely confident they exclaimed that they could even beat him. Tiger wondered if they knew exactly who he was, but his competitive nature won out, and he agreed to play them. He asked what time they would tee off. Tee time is 10:30 pm the said as they chuckled.

As we enter into the New Year, we stand looking down the dark fairway of life. In many ways we don't even know what direction to swing. But listen, God is there. Hear the bell of His presence? Hear His final words of promise, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:20) The Savior lives, and because He lives we can face whatever tomorrow brings.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives

Bill Gather recalls the circumstances that prompted the writing of this much beloved hymn:

"We wrote Because He Lives at the end of the 1960's, when our country was going through some great turmoil with the height of the drug culture and the whole 'God is Dead' theory which was running wild in our country and also the peak of the Vietnam War, our little son was born, at least Gloria was expecting him. And I can remember at the time we thought, 'Brother, this is a really poor time to bring a child into the world.' At times we were quite discouraged by the whole thing. And then Benjy did come. We had two little girls whom we loved very much, but this was our first son, and so the lyric came to us, 'How sweet to hold a new-born baby and feel the pride and joy he gives, but better still the calm assurance this child can face uncertain days because Christ lives.' And it gives us the courage to say, 'Because He lives we can face tomorrow.'"

Yes we can face tomorrow. We can face 2016 with great assurance because Christ lives. We may not know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. Read the promises of Christ found in John 14:15-21. Listen and look for God's presence and swing away in 2016.

PraiSing Him,

Pastor Jeff

Get Involved!

- Children's Choir (Grades 1-6) - Wed. at 6pm
- Adult Choir - Wednesdays at 7:00pm
- Orchestra - Sundays at 9:00am.
- Youth Praise Band - Sundays at 5pm

Student Ministry

PASTOR SHANNON ENGLAND

englandshannon321@gmail.com

The Salt Mine

Luke 14:33-35

Wishing You a Marvelous New Year

It happens this time every year when I marvel wondering where the year has gone. It would be a cliché if not for it being so true to most everyone I know. But here we are, it's December and I'm writing my article for the January/ February Theme. Not only do I marvel at how fast the year has flown by but I also marvel at all God has done and is doing in my life and the lives around me.



This year I've seen God answer prayers of salvation, prayers for the workers, prayers of healing, and prayers of provision. I marvel as I see Him moving among Central's college students into a deeper relationship with Him and empowering them to faithfully respond. I marvel as I see Him working in the lives of our Middle School and High School students leading them to faithfully follow Him in service. I've also considered the fact that He is watching us and occasionally marvels as He's watching.

It's true you know. Two places in the Scriptures we see Jesus marveled over a person/people and both have to do with faith. In Matthew 8:9-11 we see Jesus marveled at the faith of the Centurion who even not being an Israelite, understood how faith works:

"He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.'"

The second place Jesus marveled is among his family and friends. However, He didn't marvel over their example of faith but instead over their lack of faith in Mark 6:6:

Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And He marveled because of their unbelief.

Faith is so important! Their unbelief limited what Jesus could do among them, "He could do no mighty work there...." Faith is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8)! And faith unleashes all of Heavens resources and is the reward of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6)! Faith is the game changer here on earth! It is by faith we are saved and God is pleased. He commends people as a result of their faith. Faith brings understanding, hope, and conviction to what is a mystery to so many (Hebrews 11:1-3). This is why I am wishing for and wishing you a Marvelous New Year. Make this the year we cherish the gift of faith and cling to the gospel so tightly that we are not shaken. May God look upon us and marvel!! Jesus loves you so love Him back.

Shalom,

Shannon England

YOUTH UPDATE

Avalanche Weekend ~

January 15 & 16

◆ Upcoming Events ◆

Youth
Last Wednesday
Event

Valentine's Day
Event 
Friday, February 12

Youth Led Service
Sunday, February 7 @ 6pm

Youth Last Wednesday
Event
February 24th

To our church family at Central Baptist Church

Over the past 2 years we have been working with the Deaf Chinese on a scripture translation project. As of today they have completed over 50 stories, including stories for evangelism, discipleship, leadership training, and church planting, in 2015. They have already used these stories in Deaf communities around China to lead people to faith and plant new Deaf churches. They have already used the translation skills they have acquired to train Deaf believers in Vietnam and Thailand. So they are taking seriously their responsibilities to fulfill the Great Commission as a part of their translation work.



Central Baptist Church has supported our work to reach Deaf communities around the globe for a number of years. Most recently those funds have gone to support this translation effort. Although it is an expensive process the part that you have played to get scripture into Chinese Sign Language has been critical. For your continued commitment to supporting this work, we and our Deaf Chinese brothers and sisters, are deeply grateful. Thank you!

Mark Sauter

Affinity Global Strategy Leader for the Deaf Peoples
International Mission Board, SBC

Christmas



Food Boxes

The Food Pantry has been very successful in feeding the hungry. We had 28 people take advantage of the food we had prepared for Thanksgiving. Many of the people whom we welcomed were signed up prior to Thanksgiving so we had a real knowledge of how many boxes to prepare. We also had some religious tracts to hand out and everyone was thankful for those. You see, it is not just food that people want but they also want to be in contact with believers. Some of the things that people who come to the Food Pantry tell us breaks your heart. We give lots of encouragement and invite people to come to church & pray with us.

There are persons who live in the woods and do not have a bed to sleep in, or a place to shower. The Good Lord has made our church available to persons who need our help and we give that each time they come to the Food Pantry. Christmas is very close now and we are preparing for that too. We have collected some warm clothing to give to those who are in need. The Good Lord has given us many resources to help those in need. Members of the Food Pantry are very generous and reach out to those who come seeking food and Christian contact. God has placed helpful, loving persons who work in our Food Pantry. Without those people we could not do The Lord's work.

May the Lord bless you,

Ellie Brown ~ elliebrown5@aol.com



Brevard Baptist Association

The Brevard Baptist Association (BBA) is a fellowship of Southern Baptist churches making Christ known along the Space Coast and beyond. The BBA's main purpose is to serve as a resource and connector to our churches and pastors by (1) equipping leaders as they lead churches; and (2) being a catalyst for engaging our communities in missional opportunities.

In 2015, we began the year with spiritual renewal as several BBA pastors participated in a two-day retreat led by Rick Shepherd, director of Prayer and Spiritual Awakening at the Florida Baptist Convention. Other equipping opportunities were provided throughout the year in the form of "Lunch 'N Learn" sessions for pastors and other church leaders, as well as Pastor Network Gatherings. Network meetings are every other month in both North and South Brevard for the purpose of prayer, encouragement, and sharing our resources with one another as needs are made known. Another equipping strategy is our on-going Seminary Extension which provides quality college-level Bible courses each semester at the BBA Ministry Center.

The BBA has been a catalyst this year by helping network ministries and community needs. Through the ministry of Michelle Bowers, who serves part-time as BBA Community Impact Catalyst, the Lord has used our association to encourage the pro-life work of crisis pregnancy centers in Brevard County. Michelle Bowers invited the directors of these centers to meet at the BBA Ministry Center in order to introduce them to each other, encourage them, and help them resource each other. Prior to Michelle's invitation, these leaders had never worked together for encouragement and strategy. Michelle has also met with Brevard Public School officials who seek to help students and their families who are homeless. Through her initiative, some of our churches are now helping provide food for some of these homeless families. (Note: **Florida Today** newspaper published an article on December 6 regarding the large number of homeless students in our schools.)

Throughout the year, the Lord opened doors for the BBA to encourage missional engagement locally in apartment ministries. Nationally, the BBA has begun partnering with the Maine Baptist Association (which encompasses the entire state), and Central Baptist Church was very instrumental in sending volunteers to serve in Maine this past summer. Also, one of our BBA pastors Bill Allison and his wife Dottie, are now serving as interim pastor at a church in Southern Maine. Internationally, we have an ongoing partnership to Cuba where the BBA has sent teams from our churches who have helped rebuild and add on to an existing church in Trinidad, Cuba.

Your support of the BBA also means you are a partner in reaching the world through the Space Coast Seafarers Ministry in Port Canaveral. Considering it their "home away from home", hundreds of seafarers who work on cruise and cargo ships visit the ministry center each week. While there they are presented the gospel through word and deed as they enjoy a free, hot meal; chapel services; free Wi-Fi to connect with family in their home country; free transportation back and forth to the port. Led by Director Mark Wodka and his staff, this is a world-class center, open seven days a week.

Another missional opportunity includes the starting of new churches in our association. Mike Hoffmann, Lead Missional Strategist, works directly with church planters to encourage and equip these men as they evangelize and make new disciples. Two new Hispanic churches and two English churches were planted in 2015.

New initiatives for 2016 include developing Kairos Coaching for Pastors, a peer to peer learning process that will equip pastors to develop skills to coach others for spiritual transformation.

We will also be seeking to discover new opportunities to serve in Maine and Cuba.

Please contact the BBA Ministry Center if you are interested in any of the ministries described above or you would like to receive the free electronic newsletter, **BBA Update**. Your partnership, together with other BBA churches, allows this vibrant ministry to be a support ministry to our Brevard churches. *We are better together!*

Space Coast Seafarer's Ministry



The gift of going...



Everyday the ministry travels to and from Port Canaveral with cruise and cargo ship workers.

Your gift of:

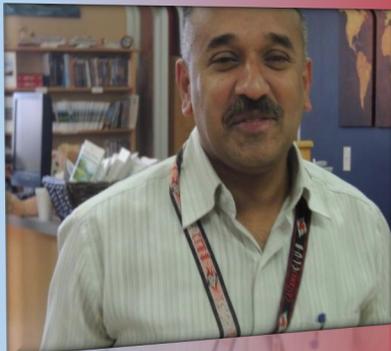
\$25... Keeps a van running for a day

\$70 buys an oil change and vehicle maintenance

\$150 buys a new tire

Shop Now : <http://www.seafarersministry.org/gala/>

Thank you for including Space Coast Seafarers Ministry in your Christmas.



The gift of technology...

We envision TV's showing gospel stories in different languages all around the center. To do this we need 3 TV's, a desktop computer, and 3 HDMI cables.

Your gift of:

\$60... Buys an HDMI Cable

\$100 Buys an HDMI Splitter

\$500 buys 50" HDTVs

\$600 buys a Designated Computer

Thank you for including Space Coast Seafarers Ministry in your Christmas.

Or mail a check to Space Coast Seafarers Ministry
8907 N Atlantic Ave., Cape Canaveral, FL 32920



Hearts & Hands Quilting Ministry

The Hearts and Hands Quilting group has been very busy this season, thanks to all the people who donated cotton Christmas fabric. We decided to make table runners instead of a patchwork quilt. So, we made 40 table runners and sold 35. We raised \$435.00 for Lottie Moon Missions.

We have also been busy making quilts and delivering them to people we know who are ill, depressed, in the hospital and nursing homes, and even had a couple new babies. If you know of someone who is ill and needs an uplifting gift (we put a bible verse in each quilt), please let someone on our team know.

Quilting Team: Cathy Yelverton, Loretta Peeples, Bobbie Slocum, Pat Gibbs, Sharon Welk, Gail Hash and Jill Wilcox. We also have several volunteers who like to deliver quilts for us and we appreciate them very much! We meet on every other Monday morning at 10 a.m. in the bell room, please feel free to come see what we are about and look at our quilts.

Audit Committee Report

Central Baptist Church Audit Committee Report 2015 Third quarter report

The audit Committee wants to give God all of the glory for the good things He is doing in our church.

Mark 11:22, So Jesus answered and said to them, "*Have faith in God.*"

An audit was performed on the checking and saving accounts for the third quarter of 2015. All federal financial requirements are satisfied, and we find all to be in financial order.

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the Lord God of hosts, Malachi 3:10

Thank God for all his goodness and tender mercies!

In God we trust,
William Pitman, Fred Parsons, Fran Tuggle and Priscilla Mercer

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

Our purpose is to provide a safe Christian environment for preschool children to grow physically, socially, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

We're growing!



Looking for “*more*” Loving hands and Caring hearts to serve.



Places to serve:

Welcome Center – Sundays 10:30- 11:05
Classroom – Church service for Sunday mornings,
Sunday & Wednesday evenings.
Volunteers and Paid workers

Everyone is on a rotation schedule.

Contact Karen White at 720-7251 or karenw@cfl.rr.com for more information.

You will give and receive a blessing in serving!

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



2016 Upcoming Events

It's Time for Revivals!!!



Sunday, January 24—Sunday January 31st

Tim St Clair will be our speaker.
Watch your bulletin for more details.



March
20th



Graduate
Sunday
we honor you

May 1



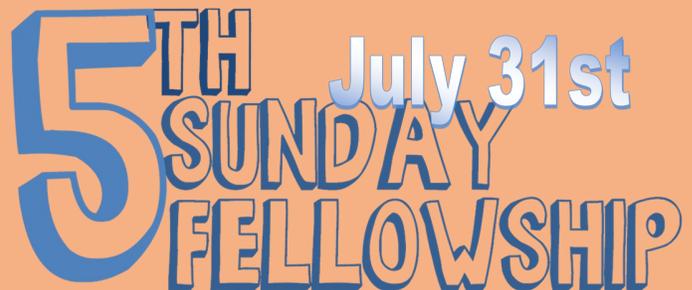
Easter
SUNDAY
March 27th



June

YOUTH

MISSION TRIP



5TH SUNDAY
FELLOWSHIP
July 31st

MISSION TRIP

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30 — 6PM

IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

**“TO WIN THE FIGHT,
YOU’VE GOT TO HAVE THE RIGHT
STRATEGY AND THE RIGHT
RESOURCES, BECAUSE VICTORIES
DON’T COME BY ACCIDENT.”**



FROM THE CREATORS OF FIREPROOF AND COURAGEOUS
WAR ROOM
PRAYER IS A POWERFUL WEAPON



Snacks will be provided at no charge. This is an outreach activity. Please remember to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us.



PROJECT UPDATE

By Ted Wolfe

It's official, July 7, 2016 will be the Ark Encounter's grand opening day which was announced at a special local, state and national media and press conference briefing at the construction site on 12 November just a few short weeks ago. The long awaited announcement was finally briefed to the public at 10:30 AM that morning by Ken Ham, President and CEO of Answers in Genesis with a full barrage of media outlets at all levels in attendance.

Ken gave a number of details about the opening including commencement of online tickets sales starting on 19 January 2016 as well as the cost of the tickets themselves starting at \$40 for a regular adult admission. Due to the anticipated surge of guests expected during the opening months, it was highly suggested that those interested in tickets next year purchase them in advance as early as possible. The first few months after opening will probably see demand in excess of over twice the 16,000 guests per day the attraction can accommodate. For this reason, purchasing tickets online in advance will be the only method available for at least the first 40 days of operation. In addition, the Ark Encounter attraction will be open for two attendance sessions, one for daytime (9:00 am to 4:00 pm) and one for the evening (5:00 pm to midnight), each with



State, local and national media at the 12 November press briefing.



Ken Ham, President and CEO of Answers in Genesis makes the announcement at the Ark construction site on 12 November. For a short video clip of the announcement, [click here](#).

unique differences and feel. The idea for the 40 days and 40 nights sessions to help with the potential surge in the initial attendance came from Genesis 7:12 that states, "And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights." At the end of this initial 40 day period, a determination will be made to continue with the dual session schedule or revert to the normal daytime attendance for the subsequent months.

PROJECT UPDATE

The actual opening date of 7 July (7-7-16) was also interestingly chosen to correspond to the passage in Genesis 7:7 that states, “So Noah, his sons, his wife, and his sons’ wives entered the ark because of the waters of the flood”. In determining the actual opening date, it was noted that the seventh day in the seventh month of next year fit within the Ark’s construction deadlines even though that determination was quite complicated with a project of this size and unique attributes. So 7 July was the day that was chosen to allow the public to enter the Ark for the first time.

In order to maintain the construction schedule deadlines a key time in the run-up to opening will be early December 2015, when it is expected that most of the shell, or outside structure of the main body of the Ark, will be complete. This will allow

many of the exhibits to begin to be installed on the Ark. The stern (right side of the picture) will be constructed first after completion of the mid-section of the Ark, with the bow to be added last, sometime in early 2016.

A special guest at the press conference was 91 year-old Princeton-trained scholar Dr. John Whitcomb (PhD, Grace Seminary). He is the coauthor of the classic book *The Genesis Flood* with the late Dr. Henry Morris that was released back in 1961 which began the modern creationist movement and turned the tide against the progressive movement to embrace the false doctrine of evolution within the church. Dr. Whitcomb is acknowledged as the world’s leading theologian on the topic of the Ark and Flood of Noah, and has been a great personal inspiration to Ken Ham. “Dr. Whitcomb,” declared Ham “is one of my heroes of the faith.” At the

press conference, Dr. Whitcomb read a portion of Genesis 7 and the account of Noah’s Flood.

While at Princeton and in his own words he was a “godless, evolutionist and raised in a non-Christian home.” But during his time at Princeton, he came to know the Savior and ultimately attended Grace Seminary in Indiana where in 1953 he met Dr. Henry Morris, a hydraulics engineer, and who collaborated with Dr. Whitcomb to produce the book *The Genesis Flood*. Dr. Morris, who died in 2006, was one of the key founders of the Institute for Creation Research in San Diego and attended Shadow Mountain Community Church for many years pastored by Dr. David Jeremiah.



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Pictured is Ken interviewing Dr. Whitcomb at the press conference on 12 November 2015. To view a short video on the complete interview with this godly man of grace and humility, [click here](#).



© 2015 Answers in Genesis

Construction continues as shown in this early December picture. The mid-section, as shown above, needs to be completed and dried in by the end of December 2015 to stay on track for the 7 July opening. For the most recent drone flyover video and to view the latest construction status, [click here](#).

It is hoped that Dr. Whitcomb will be able to attend the opening next July and pray God’s blessing over this magnificent work that God has accomplished through the AIG ministry and all those He has called to the task.

PROJECT UPDATE

A lot of work continues at the Ark construction site with ever increasing variety as more and different types of tradesmen become involved with working toward completion. One of the more behind the scene efforts belongs to Tim Schmitt and his crew as they work to plan and prepare the Ark as well as the grounds with plant material that will find their home inside the Ark and on the Ark site itself.

Tim is AiG's director of site development and horticulture and brings years of experience to the Ark project after having oversight of horticulture at the Creation Museum, even before it opened. Guests that tour the museum's botanical gardens are fascinated by the variety of plants that are growing there including the banana trees (this is in northern Kentucky by the

way, not central Florida). Recently, we spent an entire Saturday morning in early October with Tim as he took us around the gardens at the Creation Museum on a personal tour. These gardens are overwhelmingly beautiful and Tim knows each plant personally and by name; most of them I cannot pronounce not to mention



Pictured here is Tim Schmitt, senior director of site development and horticulture, in the front area of the Creation Museum.

remember. He will bring his expertise in this area of site development to the Ark Encounter to help transform these Kentucky hills and hollers into the vision that fits the uniqueness of this project. For more information about Tim's effort with the Ark Encounter project go to the Ark Encounter Web site or click here ["How We Grow Plants Year-Round in Kentucky"](#). Tim is also a biker buddy (The Mild HOGs) with Mike Zovath, AiG's Chief Action Officer, who we highlighted in the previous newsletter and has been on a number road trip adventures with Mike over the years. Tim and his wife Joetta, who also works at AiG with the Ark Encounter advancement team, went with our group to Australia this summer where we greatly enjoyed getting to know them in the land down under. On several of our road trips into the rain forests, Tim was constantly stopping the tour bus to get pictures of some of the more exotic plants that grow naturally in the mountain rain forests around Sydney and Cairns. I would not be surprised to see some of them at the Ark Encounter when it opens.

As furious as the construction efforts continue at the Ark site, the exhibit planners, designers and fabricators are even busier in the design studios to fill the thousands of square feet of exhibit space and over 130 exhibit bays with displays that bring the Bible's message of the Gospel and the historical accuracy and authority that serves as its foundation. One interesting area of technology that is used to produce these world class displays is the use of 3-D printing or additive manufacturing which is a process of making three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. This process is used to make many of the smaller objects and figurines as part of dioramas used throughout the many displays.



© 2015 Answers in Genesis

These are the green house and cold frame structures recently constructed on the Ark property that will allow the dividing and propagation of plants for the interior of the Ark itself. [Click here](#) to see a short video on more information on this subject.

PROJECT UPDATE

Travis Wilson is one of the many artists at the Ark Encounter that has made extensive use of this technology in producing several of the dioramas he is involved with. Some of the objects he designs are produced by a 3-D scanner, digitized, scaled and then modified to fit the vision of what is needed for a particular display or diorama. These scanned objects are sometimes real life-size people. After the objects are modified to suit the application, the 3-D printer is used to produce the figure at a size that fits the scale of the diorama being designed.

Travis was home schooled, chose a career as a commercial artist, employed at AiG since high school and gained much of his broad experience while working at the Creation Museum and now with the Ark Encounter project. Go to the Ark Encounter website or [click here](#) for an informative video on Travis and the technology he uses to produce these great exhibits.



© 2015 Answers in Genesis

Pictured here is Travis Wilson using a live model that he is scanning on a turntable to produce a digital image he will use to make a figurine in one of his dioramas. [Click here](#) to see more about this fascinating technology.

While back at the construction site about 19 of the bents (ships bulkheads) have been installed since early December. These bents serve as the main structural timbers to which everything else is attached. The three support towers that anchor the Ark as well as provide elevators, stairs and restrooms have now been completed, so the remaining bents can be installed. With most of the bents nearing completion, the process for the assembly and placement has been significantly refined since the first one was installed on June 15.



© 2015 Answers in Genesis

Pictured here is Joe from the construction crew who walks us through the bent assembly and installation process and explains all the various pieces involved and their purpose in order to produce a bent that provides the strength needed.

The timber crew at the Ark Encounter construction site has been assembling and placing them as fast as the shipments of wood from Colorado arrive. One of the contractors gave a great walk-through to show how the bents are constructed and installed. Half of each bent is assembled on the ground and installed one at a time. Each of these half-bents weighs about 25,000 lbs. and utilizes about 1200 lbs. of bolts to hold them together. For an exciting walk through the process, go to the Ark Encounter website or [click here](#) to view.

As I close this month's article much progress has occurred at the Ark construction site since the last report. The pylons for the ship's stern have been completed and the ones for the bow are nearly complete with timber frame installation expected to start on the ship's stern in January. At that time the Ark will start to take its final shape and many of the exhibits will start to make their way inside in preparation to provide millions of people with the ultimate encounter with Christ and to hear the message of Good News firmly grounded in the true history found in God's Word. For more information including videos and more photos and to keep up with the buzz of construction activity currently in progress at the Ark Encounter site, click on the following link, <https://arkencounter.com/>



EDITOR'S NOTE: Ronnie Floyd is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (BP) -- Serving as the president of the Southern Baptist Convention has been one of the greatest privileges and responsibilities in my life. I have now served for 18 months in this role.

In my final article in 2015 to our Southern Baptist family, I want to share five reflections.

1. We are a cross-generational convention

One of our unique strengths is that we are a cross-generational convention of churches. I was so encouraged to see more younger pastors and leaders at our annual meeting last June in Columbus, Ohio. I am convinced the more we focus on reaching our nation and world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the more we will continue to be a cross-generational convention. The more cross-generational our churches are, the stronger our churches will be internally and externally.

2. We are a multi-ethnic convention

Over 10,300 of our churches are non-white churches. In fact, 58 percent of the nearly 1,000 new churches we planted together last year in North America were non-white. The Southern Baptist Convention is becoming more and more diverse.

In 2014, Dr. Timothy George, the founding dean of the Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, released a powerful article entitled "Troubled Waters." In this article, he gave the following observation about our convention: Southern Baptists have become one of the most ethnically diverse and multilingual denominations in the country.

In my travels across our nation, I have found these very words to be true. This must continue to occur with an even greater acceleration for us to reach our own nation for Christ. The real key to becoming more multi-ethnic is that it occurs in our churches exponentially.

3. We are an influential convention

As the largest Protestant denomination in our nation, I believe our decisions and actions are influential. The decisions we make can impact other denominations and the greater evangelical world in a positive or a negative manner. This is why we must remain committed to Scripture as our final authority so we can point others to the Lord continually.

I believe there is another angle of influence that is far-reaching and long-lasting. There are many leaders who attend our Southern Baptist churches: CEOs, university presidents, elected and government leaders, teachers and school administrators, military leaders, and first responders. Millions of hard-working Southern Baptists desire to live out their faith in Christ.

This is why all we teach and do in our churches is significant.

4. We are a convention with many needs

We are not a perfect convention. We are a convention that has many needs. We are all sinners saved by the grace of God alone. Thankfully, God is actively conforming us into the likeness of Christ.

We have so many spiritual needs. Many of our churches are spiritually unhealthy. This is due to being led by and comprised of people like each of us that will sometimes make choices that are not the will of God.

At times, this results in things being said or written that are not godly and honoring to Christ and others. Yet, we are family. The challenge of navigating and leading is extremely difficult when our own culture within our Southern Baptist family becomes unhealthy. Often, this limits our impact in evangelizing, baptizing, discipling, even financing and sending others to be on mission with God.

Therefore, we must always see ourselves in need of the strong hand of God upon us.

5. We are a convention that responds to needs

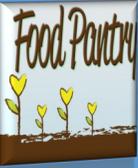
Each time a crisis occurs in our nation and world, it is with confidence that I can say, "We are there as Southern Baptists." Whether it is through our global response teams, our disaster relief teams, financial support, or prayer, we are there.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ being made known to all is the last great hope for this world. In these uncertain days in America and across our dangerous world, we must forward the impacting message of Jesus Christ.

This is why I believe our Southern Baptist churches will rise to give the largest offering in our history to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

More than ever before, there is a need for us to rise up and respond to the overwhelming needs in America and the world. If we are true to our history, we will.

JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p align="center">Regular Sunday Activities</p> <p>Sunday School (9:30am)...Morning Worship Service (10:45am) Youth Praise Band Rehearsal (5pm)...Joint Evening Worship Service (6pm) R.A.'s, G.A.'s, Acteens & Blitz & Adult Classes (6:30pm)</p> <p align="center">Regular Wednesday Activities</p> <p>Supper (5:20pm)...Word Walking, Youth Group, Children's Choirs (6:00pm)...Bible Drill, Adult Choir Rehearsal, Kidz Central (7:00pm)</p>					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Regular Sunday Activities	<p>11am Food Pantry</p> <p>7 pm Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>12pm Men in Motion</p>	Regular Wednesday Activities	<p>1:30pm Builders Sunday School class</p> <p>Central Home School</p>		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Regular Sunday Activities	<p>10am Quilting</p> <p>11am Food Pantry</p> <p>6 pm Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>12pm Men in Motion</p> 	Regular Wednesday Activities	<p>1:30pm Central Home School</p> 	Avalanche Weekend	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Regular Sunday Activities	<p>11am Food Pantry</p> 	<p>12pm Men in Motion</p>	Regular Wednesday Activities	<p>1:30pm Central Home School</p>		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Revival Services						
31	<p>10am Quilting</p> <p>11am Food Pantry</p>	<p>12pm Men in Motion</p>	<p>Wednesday Meal</p> <p>5:20pm</p>	<p>1:30pm Central Home School</p>		
Revival						

FEBRUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 6 pm Church Council Meeting	3 Regular Wednesday Activities	4 1:30pm Builders Sunday School Class...Central Home School	5	6
7 Regular Sunday Activities 6pm Youth led service	8 10am Quilting 11am Food Pantry 7pm Deacon's	9 12pm Men in Motion	10 Regular Wednesday Activities	11 1:30pm Central Home School	12 Students Valentine's Day Event 	13
14 Regular Sunday Activities	15 11am Food Pantry 6pm Stewardship	16 12pm Men in Motion	17 Regular Wednesday Activities	18 1:30pm Central Home School	19	20
21 Regular Sunday Activities 6pm Business Meeting	22 11am Food Pantry 	23 12pm Men in Motion	24 Regular Wednesday Activities Youth Last Wed. Event	25 1:30pm Central Home School	26	27
28 Regular Sunday Activities	29 10am Quilting Ministry 11am Food Pantry					

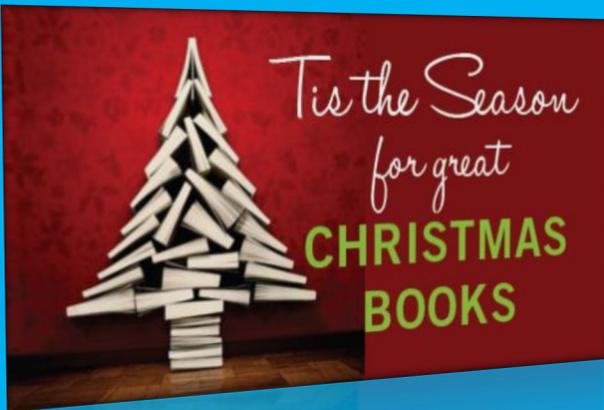
CHURCH LIBRARY

♥ **Billy Graham's newest book "Where I Am"** ♥
**has been placed in our library in loving memory of
Pat Skaggs**

Did you know the Amish young people can sow their "wild oats" and experience anything in the English world (their definition of Non-Amish) before they join the church? We have many different fiction series based on their way of life. Very interesting reading!

Come in and try one.

We are open Sunday at 9:00 am and Wednesday's from 5:00-6:00 pm



We have pulled all our Christmas novels off the shelves and put them on the round table together, so you can see them all at one time. Stop in and pick up one of these for some nice Christmas

reading! Some have several short stories in one book, so you can just enjoy one story at a time.

May the Lord bless and keep you. May He make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.
May He lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Leroy Williams, Senior Pastor
Jeffrey Hagans, Minister of Music
Shannon England, Minister of Students

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: 321-723-3681
Fax Number: 321-722-9781
Monday - Thursday 8am-5pm